



Executive Registry

70-4220/2

NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

DIRECTOR

14 October 1970

The Honorable Richard M. Helms  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Dick:

I received your letter of the 6th regarding your  
actions on unauthorized disclosures. What you have  
done so far sounds great. I hope we can get some  
positive results.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Noel", followed by a horizontal line.

NOEL GAYLER  
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

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Executive Registry

70-432211

6 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Unauthorized Disclosures of SIGINT  
Information Through the News Media

1. This memorandum is for your information and contains suggested action and a recommendation for your approval in paragraph 5.

2. Admiral Noel Gayler, Director, National Security Agency, wrote you on 10 August 1970 (Attachment A) with respect to a possible compromise of SIGINT information in a recent issue of Newsweek Magazine. You referred this letter to the Security Committee with instructions that a reply to Admiral Gayler be prepared for your signature when the Security Committee had completed its examination of the issue. A Working Group of the Security Committee was appointed to examine not only this specific disclosure but the broad problem of other serious unauthorized disclosures that have occurred in the past. Its conclusions and recommendations are as contained in the attached report to the Chairman of the Security Committee, dated 9 September 1970 (Attachment B). In the interim, I have had numerous meetings with the Director of Security of the National Security Agency and have agreed with him that the conventional procedures employed in the past by the Security Committee in the case of such disclosures are cumbersome without sufficient regard for a timely evaluation of the prospects for a successful investigation. A quick reaction procedure to accomplish this goal is now in effect in the National Security Agency and will be expanded to other departments and agencies represented on the Security Committee within the next thirty-six hours.

3. You are thoroughly familiar with the problems involved in conducting a successful investigation of these disclosures. The

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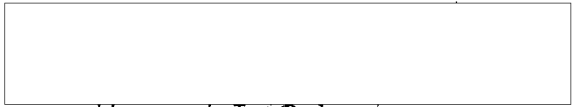
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documents involved usually have been so widely disseminated that investigation and interviews with the recipients is not only a time consuming, but a fruitless task. Further, such investigations must be conducted very discreetly to avoid undue publicity and the resultant charges that the United States Government is "invading the freedom of the press" in its investigation of the news media.

4. Nonetheless, I am of the opinion that we can do more than we have along these lines, at least by coordinating joint "in house" investigations. I also believe that it would be useful after we have gained some experience in investigating future serious disclosures in this manner to have a discussion of this general problem at an Executive Committee Meeting of the Board.

5. Before this, however, I suggest that you may wish to discuss this subject with the Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence Programs Evaluation in the light of previous experiences you have had in this area with the United States Intelligence Board and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. In the meantime, I recommend that you sign the attached letter to Admiral Gayler in confirmation of actions we have already taken with his Agency (Attachment C).

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Howard J. Osborn  
Director of Security

Attachments

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